

## **MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011  
LOUISIANA CATFISH PROMOTION AND RESEARCH BOARD MEETING  
LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S MANSION  
1001 CAPITOL ACCESS ROAD  
BATON ROUGE, LA

### **NO QUORUM – INFORMATIONAL MEETING ONLY**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sam Haring called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Rebecca Riecke of Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry called the roll.

#### **DECLARATION OF NO QUORUM PRESENT**

Mrs. Riecke declared that there was not a quorum present. The meeting would be an informational meeting only.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

RUSTY GAUDE  
SAM HARING  
STEVIE STEPHENS  
REBECCA RIECKE (COMMISSIONER'S DESIGNEE)

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

BILL CHEEK  
RUSTY FREELAND  
DIANNA HARING  
PAT SCOTT

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There was not a quorum; therefore, the minutes of the December 15, 2010, meeting could not be approved.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ron Harrell with Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation informed the Board that the amount currently in the checking account is \$455.60. He is in possession of the \$15,000 check that the LA Catfish Farmers Association returned to the Board due to the contract extension approved at the last meeting not being filed in time with Contractual Review; Mr. Harrell will deposit this check into a new checking account with Whitney Bank that charges no service fees. He stated he will have to wait until the next board meeting with a quorum present for the Board to officially approve drawing checks from this account. The amount in the 90-day CD is \$5,011.35 will mature August 10, 2011. No hard copy financial report was distributed.

Stevie Stephens informed the Board that the Catfish Farmers Association will participate in the NOAA Fish Fry in Washington, D.C. on June 8 and estimates \$7,500 will be spent for the expenses of the event. He requested that the next board meeting be held in June or July at Jackie's Riverside Restaurant in Jonesville so that there can be a quorum to approve reimbursement of the expenses of the NOAA Fish Fry to the Catfish Farmers Association.

Mrs. Riecke listed the expenses incurred for the 2011 Legislative Catfish Luncheon which included \$983.29 to Tony's Seafood for the side dishes; \$815.32 to Big Top Tents for rental of the tables and chairs; and \$365.00 reimbursement to Mrs. Riecke for purchase of the plates, eating utensils and napkins from General Paper Company and the soft drinks, condiments, foil roasters and name tags from Wal-Mart. Mr. Stephens stated that the Catfish Farmers Association would pay the bill for Tony's Seafood since no checks could be drawn from the new checking account yet, and the Board could reimburse the Catfish Farmers Association after the next meeting.

### **CONTRACT WITH LA CATFISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

Rebecca Riecke introduced Wanda Ward with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry who processes contracts for the LDAF. Mrs. Ward informed the Board that she could process a contract between the Board and the Catfish Farmers Association with up to \$20,000 of in-house authority, and it would not have to go through Contractual Review. She could process the contract not to exceed \$20,000 which would be cost-reimbursable, and the Catfish Farmers Association would be reimbursed as invoices are submitted. Mrs. Ward stated that she could process the contract for up to three years, and it could be extended if needed.

Mr. Harell recommended leaving the money that is in the CD to let it continue to earn interest, and the Board will have these funds in case the catfish industry comes back. He stated that when the CD matures on August 10, he recommends putting the money in a CD where the Board has their checking account so the funds will all be with one bank.

Mrs. Ward offered to prepare a contract between the Board and the Catfish Farmers Association not to exceed \$15,000 for three years that would be ready for the Board's discussion and possible vote at the next meeting. The contract will be cost-reimbursable consulting services, and the Board cannot pay the money up front.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Sam Haring adjourned the meeting.